



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

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April 18, 2003

Honorable Read C. Van De Water
Assistant Secretary for Aviation and
International Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, D.C.

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS
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RE: In the Matter of the revocation of the commuter air carrier
authority issued to **SAMOA AVIATION, INC.**, under
Section 41110(c) of Title 49 of the United States Code,
Docket OST-2003-14871 - 3

Dear Assistant Secretary Van De Water:

As Governor of American Samoa, I write to share with you our government's interest in the above referenced matter which involves Samoa Aviation, Inc., an American Samoa corporation doing business here.

American Samoa is a territory of the United States located approximately 2,500 miles south-southwest of Hawaii. Our territory is comprised of seven islands, including three that are collectively known as the Manu'a Islands. The headquarters of government, including the only hospital, and the center of business, are located in Tutuila -- the largest island in the group.

The Manu'a Islands are situated 60 miles east of Tutuila. Air transportation is the primary and preferred mode of travel between Tutuila and the Manu'a Islands. Samoa Aviation provides the only commuter air service between Tutuila and the Manu'a Islands. Samoa Aviation flies two daily roundtrip flights to the Manu'a Islands.

I was pleased to learn that your tentative order in this matter expressed appreciation of the dilemma in which Samoa Aviation placed our territory. Without question, any airline serving our people should satisfy federal fitness standards. Safety of the people of this territory is paramount. On the other hand, Samoa Aviation offers the only air service to the people of Manu'a -- a service that allows the residents of the Manu'a Islands to tend to their daily business in Tutuila, including, in many cases,

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Van De Water
Samoa Aviation, Inc.

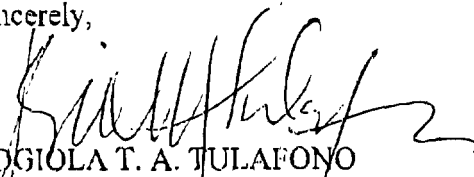
medical and health needs. Polynesian Airlines, another commuter airline serving our territory cannot fly to the Manu'a Islands because it is a foreign licensed air carrier.

Additionally, the service provided by Samoa Aviation is also significant from a cultural aspect. The family relationships in American Samoa are longstanding and very close knit. Many residents of Tutuila travel on a daily basis via Samoa Aviation to Manu'a for family matters, including weddings and funeral.

I write to request that during your deliberations in the Samoa Aviation matter, that due consideration be given to the uniqueness of this situation and the dependence of the residents of the Manu'a Islands and Tutuila Island on Samoa Aviation. My hope is that whatever the final decision, provisions are crafted to ensure that the Manu'a Islands maintain their air lifeline to the center of our government, our health care and our private businesses.

Thank you for considering my request. Should you need more information or wish to further discuss this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



TOGIOLA T. A. TULAFONO
Governor of American Samoa